



PTHA NEWS

Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association Newsletter
We ARE Pennsylvania Racing

2015 Issue #2

2014 Horsemen's Awards in the Books

The PTHA partnered with Parx Racing on April 1st to honor the top horsemen and their equine athletes from 2014. Headlining the evening was Horse of the Year Favorite Tale, who was undefeated at Parx last year including a fourteen-length romp and a victory in the G3 Gallant Bob. Also taking home awards were Leading Trainer Ramon Preciado, Leading "Division B" Trainer Keith Nations, Leading Owner Jack Armstrong, Leading "Division B" Owner Marisa Lizza Racing, Leading Jockey Frankie Pennington and Leading Apprentice Jockey Jose Delgadillo. A full recap of the winners can be found throughout this edition of *PTHA News*.



PTHA President **Sal DeBunda** presents the trophy for **Horse of the Year** to **Favorite Tale's** owner **Paul Conaway** and his fiancée **Judi Areni** of **PJG Stables** as well as trainer **Guadalupe Preciado** and his wife **Wendy**.



Sam Elliott presents the **Leading Trainer** trophy to **Ramon Preciado**.



Leading Apprentice Jose Delgadillo & **Leading Jockey Frankie Pennington**.



Kate DeMasi presents the **Leading "B" Trainer** trophy to **Keith Nations**.

Photos: Anna Cascio

Turning for Home Crosses Milestone #1,500

The 2014 Horsemen's Awards Banquet was a tremendous success again this year, not just celebrating the best of Parx Racing's horses and horsemen, but also in support of our PTHA's Turning for Home Racehorse Retirement Program and the Granny Youmans Scholarship Fund. Thanks to the foresight of PTHA leadership by President Salvatore DeBunda and Executive Director Michael Ballezzi, our horsemen have the best program in the country in which to place their horses when they are finished racing. Parx horsemen showed their support with enthusiasm and raised over \$4,000 at our annual fundraising auction during the awards banquet. We have so much to be thankful for here at Parx Racing, including that we are able to give back to the horses that are the heart of our industry.

(cont'd on page 10)



Nick Saponara was the 50/50 winner.





President's Message

Salvatore M. DeBunda, Esq.

On Wednesday, April 1st, we celebrated the very best of the best at Parx Racing, and I was honored to present the Horse of the Year trophy to my good friend Paul Conaway, owner and breeder of Favorite Tale. I would also like to express my heartfelt congratulations to the other 2014 leading horsemen: owners Jack Armstrong and Marisa Lizza Racing, trainers Ramon Preciado and Keith Nations, and jockeys Frankie Pennington and Jose Delgadillo. We also were able to recognize last year's champion equine athletes. In addition to Favorite Tale, congratulations to the connections of Disco Chick, Handsup Moneydown, Miss Holicong, My Sonata, Nasa, Page McKenney and Primo Via.

As you know, the PTHA is part of a larger National Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association (THA) which includes the states of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and Illinois. At the annual meeting of the THA held in Florida on March 5, the Board decided to fill a position of Vice President as authorized by the THA's by-laws. I am proud to announce that I was subsequently elected as a Vice President of the National THA.

Every year at this time, our PTHA Board must join together and work to educate our Pennsylvania state legislators. It is especially crucial this year, with the new governor Tom Wolf in office and some new leadership in the legislature. As we approach the new fiscal year, we are working to yet again protect the Pennsylvania Racehorse Development Fund, which continues to be a target for additional funds to balance the budget. Executive Director Mike Ballezzi and I will join our lobbyists in Harrisburg over the next few months to ensure that our funds remain available for you, the horsemen right here in Pennsylvania.

Also on our agenda for this year will be to finalize the penalty system for multiple medication violations. We have been working with THA Chairman Alan Foreman for many years on this proposal and are looking forward to the knowledge that this penalty system should help level the playing field for all horsemen.



Nearly all of the PTHA Board members were in attendance for the 2014 Parx Racing Horsemen's Awards Banquet on April 1st! Treasurer **Philip Aristone**, 2nd Vice President **Mary Zanone**, 1st Vice President **Dr. Steven Appel**, President **Salvatore DeBunda**, Executive Director **Michael Ballezzi**, Owner/Director **Nicholas Saponara**, Trainer/Director **Ronald Glorioso**, Trainer/Director **Robert "Butch" Reid, Jr.**, and Trainer/Director **Kate DeMasi**.



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Parx Horsemen Around the Nation

February 7 - GULFSTREAM PARK TURF SPRINT S.

Gulfstream Park, 5 furlongs (T)
1st - AMELIA'S WILD RIDE
O: Silver Trail Stables LLC
T: Ramon Preciado
J: Jose Lezcano
3rd - BOLD THUNDER
O: Andrew Sulley
T: Patricia Farro
J: Paco Lopez

February 21 - BUSHY S.

Aqueduct, 1 1/16 miles
3rd - SWEET ON SMOKEY
O: Alan R. Cook, Larry Pratt
& Jacquie Dalton
T: Gregory D. Sacco
J: Dylan Davis

March 14 - SILKS RUN S.

Gulfstream Park, 5 furlongs (T)
2nd - AMELIA'S WILD RIDE
O: Silver Trail Stables LLC
T: Ramon Preciado
J: Joel Rosario

March 21 - VIDEOGENIC S.

Aqueduct, 6 furlongs
3rd - SWEET SWAY
O: Missile Approved Racing
T: Ramon Preciado
J: Pablo Fragoso

March 21 - SIS CITY S.

Aqueduct, 1 1/16 miles
1st - PEBBLE BEACH BABY
O: Marisa Lizza
T: Chris J. Englehart
J: Jose Ortiz
2nd - RESENTMENT
O: Robert Tresente
T: Patricia Farro
J: Larry Mejias

March 21 - KELLY KIP S.

Aqueduct, 6 furlongs
2nd - DAN'S GOLD
O: Guyana Rocky LLC
T: Uriah St. Lewis
J: Inoel Beato

March 21 - HARRISON E. JOHNSON MEMORIAL S.

Laurel Park, 1 1/8 miles
2nd - ADIRONDACK KING
O: MarchFore
Thoroughbreds
T: John C. Servis
J: John Bisano

On March 21st, last year's Leading "B" Owner, **Marisa Lizza**, watched a mare she had claimed last August win the **Sis City Starter Stakes** at Aqueduct. **Chris Englehart** trained the daughter of Rock Hard Ten and gave a leg up to rider **Jose Ortiz**. Finishing second was **Resentment**, who is trained by **Patricia Farro** and owned by **Robert Tresente**.



Photo: Adam Coglianese



Photo: Lauren King | Coglianese Photos

Amelia's Wild Ride took his first career stakes victory on February 7th in the **Gulfstream Park Turf Sprint Stakes**. The 4yo son of D'wildcat has flourished since trainer **Ramon Preciado** shipped down south this winter. **Amelia's Wild Ride** is owned by **Silver Trail Stables LLC** and was ridden by **Dylan Davis** in the win.

Upcoming Events



Saturday, May 2 (All Day)
Kentucky Derby Day
 \$75,000 Lyman Handicap
 \$75,000 Foxy J. G. Stakes
 \$75,000 Parx Derby
 \$75,000 Parx Oaks



Saturday, June 6 (All Day)
Belmont Stakes Day



Saturday, May 16 (All Day)
Preakness Day



Friday, July 3 (11:00 - 3:00 PM)
Independence Day Picnic
 Sponsored by the PTHA
 Food prepared by Ron's Backstretch Cafe
 Music and games for the kids



Friday, May 22 (11:00 - 3:00 PM)
Memorial Day Picnic
 Sponsored by the PTHA
 Food prepared by Ron's
 Backstretch Cafe

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2014 Awards - The Horsemen

Photos: Nikki Sherman



JACK ARMSTRONG

Leading Owner

2014 Parx Racing Record:
223-37-37-36

2014 Parx Racing Earnings:
\$1,098,560

2014 Parx Highlights: Third Leading Owner title in last five years; earned over \$1 million in purses exclusively at Parx for the first time; 37 of 40 wins last year were at Parx; won at least 2

races w/ 9 horses including 4 horses who won three times; notched two races in one day three times.

Photo: Susie Raisner



MARISA LIZZA RACING

Leading "Division B" Owner

2014 Parx Racing Record:
16-8-5-0

2014 Parx Racing Earnings:
\$181,550

2014 Parx Highlights: Finished year at 50% win percentage & over 80% on the board; He's So Fine took three of four races with an additional 2nd place finish in just four months; won two

races in one day on September 13 with Anelle and Pebble Beach Baby; Anelle also won back-to-back starts.



RAMON PRECIADO

Leading Trainer

2014 Parx Racing Record:
392-118-78-50

2014 Parx Racing Earnings:
\$3,040,884

2014 Parx Highlights: Conditioned 2014 Parx Racing Champions Handsup Moneydown, Miss Holicon & My Sonata; won at least 10 races in six of twelve months; won at least 2 races

with more than 30 horses including 3 races w/ 5 horses & 4 races w/ 3 horses; won 3 races in one day twice; won 7 races over KY Derby weekend at Parx.



KEITH NATIONS

Leading "Division B" Trainer

2014 Parx Racing Record:
90-26-24-13

2014 Parx Racing Earnings:
\$587,816

2014 Parx Highlights: Trained Hold the Wire & Cactus Cowgirl to back-to-back victories; 3 additional wins came with Katavina; won 2 races in one day on July 21; notched 5 wins

in August & December w/ 10 different runners.



FRANKIE PENNINGTON

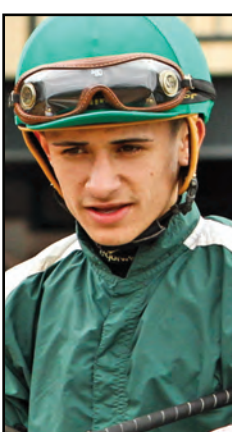
Leading Jockey

2014 Parx Racing Record:
650-143-110-98

2014 Parx Racing Earnings:
\$4,382,813

2014 Parx Highlights: 2nd career Parx jockey title while crossing the wire first at a 30% clip; all but 19 victories came at Parx; won 3 stakes races at Parx including 2 aboard Champion Older

Male Page McKenney; regular rider of Vero Amore who was also 2nd in the G2 Black Eyed Susan at Pimlico.



JOSE DELGADILLO

Leading Apprentice Jockey

2014 Parx Racing Record:
693-110-97-126

2014 Parx Racing Earnings:
\$3,077,073

2014 Parx Highlights: Crowned Leading Apprentice Jockey despite losing his bug midway through the year; finished 2nd in overall jockey standings at Parx; rode Zipped Code to a 2nd place finish in the \$75,000 Lyman Handicap.

GRADE 3 MILLIONAIRE

Weigelia



Photo Courtesy of Barrie Reighlder

Safely's Mark — Turning North, by Obligato

**Ran Nine 100-plus Beyers and TWO New Course Records:
6 furlongs 1:07 at Belmont Park, 5 furlongs in :55 at Monmouth Park**

W**EIGELIA** won eight stakes on dirt and turf, including G3 Carry Back S. (scoring 108 Beyer), G3 Kenny Noe Jr. H. (with a 103 Beyer), \$150,000 Jack Dudley Sprint H. twice (107 and 109 Beyers), \$100,000 Ponche H. (106 Beyer), Western Borders S. (104 Beyer), etc. He placed second in four stakes, including the G1 King's Bishop S. (105 Beyer), \$140,000 Icecapade S. (100 Beyer) etc. He placed third in nine additional stakes, including the G2 Smile Sprint H., G2 Amsterdam S. and G3 Jaipur S. **TOTAL EARNINGS OF \$1,077,708.** His sire, **SAFELY'S MARK**, by **DANZIG**, and out of an Eclipse Award Sprinter **SAFELY KEPT** and his dam, **TURNING NORTH** from the winning G1 family of champions **DAVONA DALE**, **SEEK GOLD**, etc. makes Weigelia a worthy choice.

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2014 Awards - The Horses

Photos: Nikki Sherman



FAVORITE TALE

*Horse of the Year,
3yo Colt or Gelding*

Owner: PJG Stable

Trainer: Guadalupe Preciado

Breeder: Paul Conaway

2014 Parx Highlights: Undefeated in four starts at Parx in 2014, including a runaway victory in the G3 Gallant Bob Stakes on PA Derby Day; took his NW1X by fourteen lengths.



HANDSUP MONEYDOWN

*Claiming Horse of the Year,
Winningest Horse*

Owner: Ramon Preciado

Trainer: Ramon Preciado

Breeder: Buck Pond Farm

2014 Parx Highlights: Won 7 in a row in under three months; ranked #1 in the nation with 11 victories; finished third in his final race of the year, the Wild and Wonderful Stakes.



NASA

2yo Colt or Gelding

Owner: Someday Farm

Trainer: John C. Servis

Breeder: Patricia L. Chapman

2014 Parx Highlights: 100% on the board in 2014 including an easy win in the Pennsylvania Nursery Stakes.



MISS HOLICONG

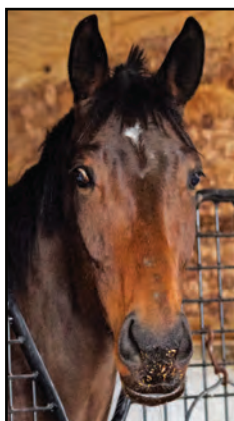
2yo Filly

Owner: William J. Hartwell

Trainer: Ramon Preciado

Breeder: Frances M. Hartwell

2014 Parx Highlights: Broke her maiden by an emphatic 6 lengths; two weeks later notched her second career victory by 7 1/4 lengths.



DISCO CHICK

3yo Filly

Owner: Freedom Acres, Inc.

Trainer: Mario Serey, Jr.

Breeder: Y. Jerry Kolybabiuk

2014 Parx Highlights: Speedball filly won four of seven 2014 Parx Racing starts including three allowance events in a row; finished 3rd in the Dr. Teresa Garofalo Memorial Stakes.



PAGE MCKENNEY

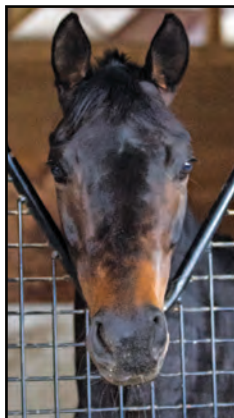
4yo and Up Colt or Gelding

Owner: Adam Staple & Jalin Stable

Trainer: Mary E. Eppler

Breeder: Dr. James E. Bryant & Linda P. Davis

2014 Parx Highlights: Took 4 of 6 starts at Parx including the First Responder Stakes by 2 1/4 lengths; ran to victory three races in a row in less than a month.



PRIMO VIA

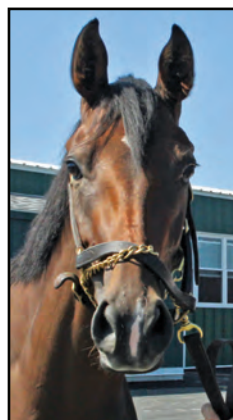
4yo and Up Filly or Mare

Owner: L.A. Thoroughbreds, et al

Trainer: Philip T. Aristone

Breeder: Cedar Meadow, Inc.

2014 Parx Highlights: Contested all 16 starts at Parx including six wins; finished in the money in all 16 races; garnered earnings of over \$260,000; finished 2nd in Plum Pretty Stakes.



MY SONATA

Outstanding Claim of the Year

Owner: Gregory A. Gordon

Trainer: Ramon Preciado

Breeder: Ron Glorioso & Pope McLean

2014 Parx Highlights: Claimed for \$16,000 in March; earned over \$100,000 including a 4-race winning streak where she won by a combined total of more than 16 lengths.

2014 Parx Racing Horsemen's Awards Banquet



PTHA 1st Vice President **Dr. Steven Appel** presents **Jose Delgadillo** with the **Leading Apprentice** trophy.



Director of Racing **Sam Elliott** presents the award for **Winningest Horse** of 2014 to **Ramon Preciado**, owner and trainer of winner **Handsup Moneydown**.



PTHA 1st Vice President **Dr. Steven Appel** presents **Frankie Pennington** with the **Leading Jockey** trophy.

Photos: Anna Cascio



PTHA 2nd Vice President **Mary Zanone** presents the award for top two-year-old colt or gelding of 2014 to **Tyler Servis**, assistant trainer for **John Servis**, trainer of winner **Nasa**, who accepted on behalf of owner **Someday Farm**.



PTHA President **Sal DeBunda** presents the trophy for **Champion Three-Year-Old Filly** to the connections of winner **Disco Chick**, including trainer **Mario Serey, Jr.** and **Y. Jerry Kolybabiuk** of **Freedom Acres, Inc.**



PTHA Board Member **Nick Saponara** presents the award for top **Two-Year-Old Filly** of 2014 to the connections of **Miss Holicong**, including trainer **Ramon Preciado**.



PTHA Board Member **Ron Glorioso** presents the trophy for **Champion Older Male** to **Frankie Pennington**, regular rider of **Page McKenney**, who accepted on behalf of trainer **Mary Eppler** and owners **Adam Staple & Jalin Stable**.



Director of Racing **Sam Elliott** presents the award for **Leading "B" Owner** to trainer **Ramon Preciado**, on behalf of **Marisa Lizza Racing**.



Acting Executive Secretary of the PA State Horse Racing Commission **Walter Remmert** presents the award for **Champion Older Female** to the connections of **Primo Via**, including trainer **Phil Aristone** as well as part-owners **Randy Swisher & Mike Ballezzi**.



Trainer **Phil Aristone** accepted the award for **Leading Owner** of 2014 on behalf of **Jack Armstrong** from PTHA Executive Director **Mike Ballezzi**.



PTHA Board Member **Butch Reid** presents the award for top **Three-Year-Old Male** of 2014 to **Guadalupe Preciado**, trainer of winner **Favorite Tale**, and owner **Paul Conaway** and his fiancée **Judi Areni** of **PJG Stables**.



Racing analyst **Dick Jerardi**, Director of Racing **Sam Elliott**, track announcer **Keith Jones** and *Let's Go Racing* producer **Bruce Casella**.



Deputy Secretary of the PA Dept. of Agriculture **Fred Strathmeyer** presents the award for **Outstanding Claim of the Year** to **Ramon Preciado** for his claim of **My Sonata**, who is owned by **Gregory Gordon**.



PA State Horse Racing Commissioner **Thomas Jay Ellis** presents the award for **Claiming Horse of the Year** to **Ramon Preciado**, owner and trainer of winner **Handsup Moneydown**.



Two agents and their award-winning jockeys: **Bobby Martel**, **Frankie Pennington**, **Jose Delgadillo** and **Donna Servis**.

The Best Racehorse Retirement Program in the Country **Thoughts from Program Administrator Danielle Montgomery**

Turning for Home, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to find homes for Parx Racing's retiring thoroughbreds.

P.O. Box 300, Bensalem, PA 19020 • 267-223-3418 • www.turningforhome.org



(cont'd from cover)

Over fifty colorful baskets collected by dedicated volunteers offered goodies such as rounds of golf, hotel stays, dinners, wine, toys, silks, memorabilia, feed and artwork. Joyce Kleppinger left happily once again with arms filled, this time taking home three baskets. Ronda Parker won a season to Just A Touch in the silent auction courtesy of a donation by Maui Meadow Farm and board member Nick Saponara was the magic draw in the 50/50.

We would like to thank everyone for such generous support. Consistently, our horsemen send donations to help us keep our program running. Top Shelf Racing, Brushwood Stable, The Pewter Stable, Ciaverdone Racing, Nations Racing Stable, HnR Nothhaft Horse Racing, Argentum Racing, Marshall Graham, Silverrod Stable, Ruth Oshier, American Dreamer Stable, Stonybrook Stable, Martita Goshen, Krista Nash, Sanford Bacon, Skiman Racing Stable, Happy Tenth Stable, Michael Moriarty, Farros Racing Stable, David Discipio, Gerald Schenk, Linda Sherman, the Clarksons...and that's just mentioning a few! We appreciate that each dollar helps us give our horses every chance at a second career.

No horse is turned away that is stabled here at Parx with a trainer who is here for at least six months of the year. How powerful is that? As a successful organization, for seven years we have helped evaluate every horse brought to us and have never been forced to decline taking in any horse due to lack of room or funding or soundness. Over 1,500 horses have been assisted and we currently track well over a thousand in their adoptive homes. Not many rescues can say that they have been viable for seven years and have taken in an average of twenty horses per month without having to turn any away.

Over and above placing those twenty horses each month with a partner farm for rehabilitation, retraining and rehoming, we assist owners, trainers and veterinarians on the backside with difficult cases that require further testing, procedures or advice from area surgeons. Many times we discover that a horse can benefit from surgery and we are able to save a life that may have hung in the balance.

The most important thing is that we put our heart and soul into helping each horse find his best future.

Funding has helped us in our partnership with the Equine Rescue of Aiken and Performance Equine

Recent Adoptions

*Left column: Berry Berry Bueno, Grace's Honor, Grape Grace, Honorable Judge
Right column: Smokindowntheaisle, Star Factor, Xrayder, Yacantmakethisup*

Check out our website for even more adoptions & success stories!

The following groups donated to our basket auction, silent auction & 50/50 raffle at the Horsemen's Awards Banquet. Thanks to the help of these companies and people, we were able to raise \$4,000 for Turning for Home and The Granny Fund!

Agway
 Alexandra Baker, DMD
 Applebee's
 Bensalem Country Club
 Bertucci's
 Brandywine River Museum
 Brunswick Zone
 CDK Industries
 Crowne Plaza Bensalem
 Dave & Buster's
 Holiday Inn Bensalem
 Horsemen's Purchasing Association
 Jan Ripley
 Longwood Gardens
 Mad Golfer Golf Club
 Maui Meadow Farm
 Monster Mini Golf
 New Hope & Ivyland Railroad
 Outback Steakhouse
 Panera Bread
 Paul Briscione
 Philadelphia 76ers
 Philadelphia Flyers
 Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association
 Radisson Hotel Treviso
 Randy & Donna Swisher
 Red Robin
 Robert Dougherty
 Sesame Place
 Texas Roadhouse
 The Hansen Charitable Foundation
 Track to Tranquility Equestrian Program
 Trenton Freedom
 Trenton Thunder
 Ultra Zone

We would also like to thank our volunteers, for their tremendous work on the baskets and help throughout the night:

Christine Benedetto
 Mike Bilinskas
 Jean Fritz
 Joi Hollinger
 Erin Inman
 Jan Palmer
 Nikki Sherman
 Ginny Suevo
 Debbie Ulmer



Joyce shows off her winning baskets.

Veterinarians. We are very proud to say that for the second year, we are donating ten mares to this very successful and impeccably run embryo transplant program. Sometimes horses plateau in their rehabilitation and for one reason or the other become unrideable and thus, unadoptable. This has been the hardest part of the program for our farms managers and their staff who fall in love and try their best to place our horses into safe homes. Many times we get lucky and find lower-level, safe companion and trail homes, but there

are always more horses than there are homes willing to make a twenty-plus year commitment to caring for an expensive pet. This is an issue we are working hard to address. We will have much more to show you soon, as last year's mares are now foaling the best-bred polo ponies in the country. Jess Fisher of Performance Equine has invited us down to take pictures and visit with our former racemares at their state-of-the-art facilities in Aiken.

We do our best to help our arthritic geldings find a safe landing as well. I have always felt that every horse farm can care for a couple of retirees, and it's true that most farm owners have their share of geriatrics out back. The same is true with our partner farms, and each one has taken in a horse or two as their heart horse: Bonnie has Jayburger, Rachel has Enzed, Patti has Rae Jet, Nicole has Curve Ball and Maui Meadow has a few they have taken back and use for their students. Sometimes we reach out to former breeders and owners when we are worried about a horse not

having a permanent home. Craig Donnelly recently stepped up to take in feisty PA homebred stakes winner Phil Dancer and has offered him a foster home with Mark Reid at Walnut Green Farm until we can find him a permanent home. Similarly, Kinsman Farm stepped up for homebred favorite Vanquisher, who also suffered a very common career-ending sesamoid injury and was a true racehorse. The fate of pasture sound horses is always a concern and we are actively searching out viable programs that can give these guys a job and provide for them safely.

While these guys are the ones that we tend to worry about the most, we do have very sound and capable retired racehorses who can go on to excellent second careers. Full Gallop Farm in Aiken has agreed to add recent retirees Dubaiyou and Excessive Drama to their stable of Turning for Home alumni, and we are excited to follow them into upper-level competition.

Nineteen horses were adopted out in March alone, keeping the trend going for a record number of adoptions in 2015. Last June, Dr. Hanf assisted with the castration and vetting of classly allowance horse Patrick S. Literally while writing this article, we received word from After the Races that after ten months on the farm, Patrick S. was adopted, marking the very first adoption of April!

What an asset Turning for Home is to trainers here that wish to bring better horses and owners to race here! Owners now have the peace of mind to know that their retiring horses will be offered a wonderful second career through the best retirement program in the country.



Phil Dancer at Walnut Green.

What Ever Happened To...?

...STRINGTOWN WONDER

2006 Philadelphia Park Horse of the Year



Photos: Nikki Sherman

In 2006, a year that saw Bernardini and Invasor (ARG) each earn more than \$3 million, there was no horse that won more races in the nation than Stringtown Wonder. The handsome gelded son of Wild Wonder flourished under the tutelage of Bob Seeger and his Plumstead Stable, winning 12 of 15 starts including stringing together eight straight victories in the final six months of the year.

Current Parx trainer Michelle Fortebuono was working for Seeger at the time and promised “Wonder” that when

the time came for him to retire, she would take care of him. It was another four years and 33 starts before Fortebuono got the call from his trainer at Mountaineer in West Virginia, but she was ready to bring him home.

Nowadays, if you look closely at his fourteen-year-old legs, you’ll see that he has some relics from his racing career, but Stringtown Wonder is happy just being a much-loved pasture puff. He very much enjoys relaxing on a farm just minutes from where he left his mark on the record books of Philadelphia Park.



Backstretch Views

Condolences...



Longtime horseman **Tyrone "Darryl" Nicky Brown** died suddenly on February 27th. Two memorial services were held, including one here at Parx Racing, so that friends and family

both at the track and beyond could remember Darryl. A packed house crowded into the Recreation Hall on March 13th, with his family meeting many devastated horsemen for the first time, becoming strangers no more as everyone shared their memories of Darryl.

Dona Albright, 74, died on March 11th. She may have been based at Penn National, but she was known by many here at Parx Racing. Dona and her late husband, **George**, were avid PA breeders and owners, and Dona was actively training racehorses this year. The Albright family includes many children and grandchildren who are heavily involved in Pennsylvania horse racing.

Trainer **Dennis Beattie** passed away at age 66 on March 20th. He began working with racehorses at 19 years old and went on to win over 200 races in a long career. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Reins of Life, an organization dedicated to helping special needs children through interaction with horses. Visit <http://www.reinsoflife.com> for information.



Photo: Bill Denver | EQUI-Photo

Roberta "Bobbie" Croll passed away at age 94 on March 21st. She had been married to Hall of Fame trainer **Warren A. "Jimmy" Croll, Jr.** for nearly seven decades before his death in 2008. Bobbie was also an owner, with one of her best horses being New Jersey stakes winner Like a Charm. Of course, the filly was trained by her husband. The couple were familiar faces here at Philadelphia Park and Keystone.

From Abroad...

Students from the **Aasane Folkehoes-Skole** in **Norway** visited Parx Racing as part of the school's sixth annual trip to the United States. The students were thrilled to watch our racehorses train in the



morning and even had a race named in their honor! Many thanks to **Brandy Steenson** for her hard work in making their experience possible.



Happy Trails...



After nearly four years at Parx Racing, Chaplain Office Secretary **Bobbi Templeton** has announced her retirement. Bobbi and her husband Don are

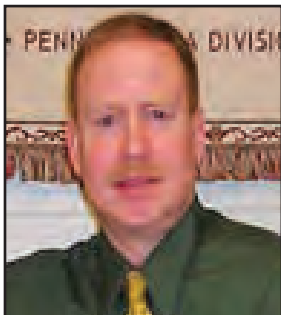
looking forward to traveling and enjoying their retirement years together.

Congratulations...

Victor E. Collazo, son of trainer **Victor O. Collazo**, passed his CPA exam in February! After graduating from Temple University in 2013, Victor started working at Grant Thornton LLP. He is also an owner for his father and races under the stable name Phast Racing.

Do you have any news for Backstretch Views?

We're always on the lookout for backstretch views. Contact **Nikki Sherman**, Marketing & Publicity Director, in the Turning for Home office or send over an email to nsherman@patha.org.



Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain Rick Bunker

“Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men.”

- Proverbs 22:29

As I write this I don't know who will be the winners at the awards banquet. I do know that much of this issue will celebrate the most successful owners, trainers, riders, and horses this past year who received awards at this year's banquet. I certainly want to add my congratulations to all the winners. I want to thank them as well, because their hard work for success inspires us and makes all of us at PARX Racing that much better as well.

We can be sure that all the winners put in a lot of time and effort. In their modesty they appropriately express gratitude to God the source of all that is good. They will even speak of being lucky. They may even 'make it look easy'. The poise that they have did not come from taking it easy; but from many early and late, long and hard hours (years) of steady and dedicated work. That is what got them to the point where they can do what they do with a poise that makes it 'look' easy or lucky. The great explorer Roald Amundsen wrote, "This is the greatest factor – the way in which the expedition is equipped – the way in which every difficulty is foreseen, and precautions taken for meeting or avoiding it. Victory awaits him who has everything in order – luck, people call it. Defeat is certain for him who has neglected to take the necessary precautions in time; this is called bad luck."

Inculcated into my ethos as I was schooled were statements like "the harder you work the luckier you'll get", and "success only comes before work in the dictionary". I have always loved to read

biographies. One thing that you will find in the life of every one of these people who became great enough to have a biography written about them, are times of great difficulties and disappointments that would have led others to the point of dereliction. No matter how much they inherited or were given all would be lost if they did not 'do their part' and meet the challenges of their day. What made them great is they did not give up. They would not give up.

A healthy dose of good humor is a big help along the bumpy way as well. Remember the wry quip of Edison's – "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work." And even those things that Edison attempted and never succeeded at gave others who followed valuable lessons of learning that would allow them to have successes.

I pray that the many that have never been called forward to receive a trophy will be blessed by the knowledge that God loves us all and the only award that we really want and need is the crown of life that He alone can give. In the meantime, may we all have what Winston Churchill called the "Success [of] walking from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm." Churchill knew about failures. We only know about him because he never let failures keep him from trying again and again. You might have forgotten about all the times Babe Ruth struck out, but as he said, "Every strike brings me closer to the next home run." God bless you all – He does and He will because He loves you and longs for all of us to 'run on home'.

“Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.” - James 1:12

2015 Children's Easter Egg Hunt



Photos: Nikki Sherman



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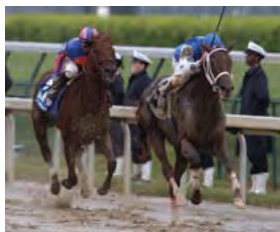
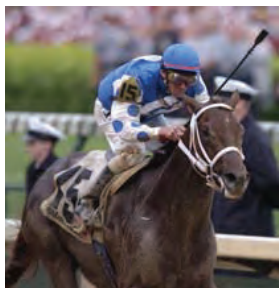
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Photos by Skip Dickstein.

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